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Deng: China would monitor Soviets

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PEKING — Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-ping) said here yesterday that China might consider operating monitoring stations for the United States to help enforce a new SALT treaty with the Soviet Union.

He specified that the monitoring would have to be done by the Chinese and that the United States would not be permitted to establish bases of its own on Chinese soil.

Deng made the statements during a two-hour interview with a delegation from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee led by Frank Church, (D., Idaho), the committee chairman.

The subject of China as a listening post for Soviet missile intelligence arose because of growing concern among senators about U.S. ability to verify Soviet compliance with any new strategic arms limitation treaty, which the Senate must ratify.

That concern stems from the recent loss of American monitoring stations in Iran on the southern Soviet frontier. The stations that were in Iran until the fall of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi earlier this year used advanced electronic gear to monitor Soviet missile tests.

Monitoring bases in China would be highly useful in a purely strategic sense, intelligence officials say, but they question whether they would be politically feasible in view of the Carter Administration's avowed determination to have an even-handed policy regarding China and the Soviet Union.

Sen. Joseph Biden (D., Del.) asked Deng yesterday whether China would allow the United States to establish monitoring bases there. Deng, the most powerful figure in the Chinese government although he technically ranks below Premier

Hua Guofeng (Hua Kuo-feng), replied that a deal might be worked out if the United States wanted to give China the necessary monitoring equipment and technology.

China, he said, would do the monitoring and actually collect intelligence, and would then share the information with the United States.

Biden said afterward that, as far as he knows, the U.S. government has never formally proposed establishing SALT monitoring stations in China. He added, though, that he had received some indications from American officials that the idea had at least been explored.

He also said he interpreted Deng's remarks as indicating that China would permit monitoring stations providing that China could "control" them.

The administration probably would not want to turn over highly classified verification technology to China. In Iran, the United States had complete control of all of its monitoring installations.

Earlier this month, Carter Administration officials dismissed as untrue some reports that the United States was considering the possibility of using China as a base from which to verify Soviet compliance with SALT restrictions.

Sen. John Glenn (D., Ohio), a skeptic about American ability to keep track of Soviet missile tests, reportedly has learned otherwise, however.

Glenn, in fact, had included a passing reference to China as a possible American listening post in the written text of a speech he delivered April 7 at Groton, Conn., where the new Trident nuclear submarine was launched.

Just hours before Glenn spoke, however, he received a telephone call from Carter, a Senate source said. The President reportedly asked Glenn to delete his mention of China, not because it wasn't true but because it might compromise national security.

The Senate source in Washington wished to keep any possibility of the China post under wraps because of concern that reports of U.S. China

cooperation in spying on the Soviets could lead to a breakdown in the SALT talks.

Herbert Scoville Jr., a strong SALT supporter and a former CIA official, says that China "would make a perfect listening post. Bases there would be looking right down the Soviet missile-testing range."

But both Scoville and former arms negotiator Paul Warnke said the use of China as a base to spy on the Soviets would raise serious political problems.

Warnke suggested that any Soviet perception that the United States and China were "ganging up" on the Soviets could all but kill a SALT agreement.

The five-member Senate delegation that met with Deng is seeking to promote improved relations with China.

The group, which includes Jacob Javits (R., N.Y.), Paul Sarbanes (D., Md.) and Edward Zorinsky (R., Neb.), also heard Deng sharply denounce a bill signed April 10 by President Carter establishing a non-official relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

"He was very hard on it," Church said. "He unloaded with both barrels. He said the thrust of the act was support of Taiwan and inconsistent with the idea of one China."

The bill commits the United States to "extensive, close and friendly relations with the people on Taiwan" and promises "to assist the people on Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defensive capability through the provision of (U.S.) arms of a defensive character."

It also authorizes a new nonprofit corporation called the American Institute on Taiwan, virtually an unofficial American embassy on the island.

The senators quoted Deng as saying, however, that he was prepared to live with the bill provided that no further actions were taken in support of Taiwan.

Deng also was reported as having told the delegation that:

- China has the courage to purchase sophisticated fighter aircraft from the United States if the United States would sell them.

- China would feel free to use force against Taiwan if it refused to open a "dialogue" on its future with